

St Rita's Catholic School South Johnstone SUN PROTECTION POLICY



According to the Cancer Council Queensland, skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in Australia, with 80 per cent of all cancers diagnosed in Australia being skin cancer. More than 430,000 Australians are treated a year for skin cancers. Queensland has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world.

Skin cancer is for the most part preventable. Most skin cancers are caused by exposure to the sun. This may be long-term exposure, or short periods of intense sun exposure and burning. Studies indicate that most skin damage occurs during childhood and adolescence.

Schools provide so many services within the school community. One of those important services is a safe and healthy environment in which to learn and play. As a consequence, sun safety is key.

For all these reasons, St Rita's aims to:

- Raise awareness about sun safety in all members of the school community, especially students.
- Make every effort to lessen children's exposure to the harmful effects of the sun.

The staff at St Rita's will aim to:

- Model the wearing of hats for outside activities.
- Encourage parents and helper to also model the wearing of hats for outside activities.
- Provide cover/shade during assemblies and meetings.
- Provide cover/shade for students when they are spectators.
- Insist students sit in shaded areas to eat during breaks.
- Enforce the "No hat, no play" rule when on playground duty.
- Whenever outdoors for classroom activities, both teachers and students must wear hats.
- Provide SPF30+ sunscreen for students for sporting occasions, camps and other excursions.
- Teach students about the importance of sun safety during Health and Physical Education lessons.
- Issue regular reminders about sun safety and reinforce the precautions listed above.